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REMARKS

Claims 1,3-5, 7-14, 16 and 18-29 are pending after this amendment.

Claim Amendments

By this amendment, new claims 26-29 are added. Claims 26 and 28 correspond to claim 4. Claims 27 and 29 correspond to claim 5. Various editorial revisions are made in claims 1, 11 and 18. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Interview with Examiner

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended toward their representative during the interview of May 13, 2003. During the interview, those distinctions that exist between the claimed invention and the cited prior art were discussed. Various claim amendments are made herein consistent with those discussions. The substance of the interview is summarized in greater detail below in connection with the further comments presented in relation to the cited prior art.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3-5, and 7-11 under 35 USC 103(a)

The following supplemental comments are presented in response to the rejection of claims 1, 3-5, and 7-11 under 35

U.S.C. 103(a) over JP 10179498 in relation to the above further amendment of the claims.

As discussed during the interview, and as recognized by the Examiner, the mechanism of operation of applicants' claimed invention is distinct from that of the cited reference.

In applicants' claimed invention, the mold-removing ingredient passes through the adhesive layer to contact the mold on the surface to be cleaned. In this way, the adhesive layer directly contacts the mold-containing surface of the object to be cleaned. Claims 1, 11 and 18 are amended to clarify this fact.

By contrast, in the cited reference as taught at Figures 6 and 7, the adhesive portion does not contact the mold-containing portion of the object to be cleaned upon application to the object. Instead, the dropping off prevention sheet contacts the mold-containing surface, with the molding cleaning ingredient passing through the dropping off prevention sheet.

Applicants' invention (as recited at claims 1 and 11 and the accompanying dependent claims) is thus neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited reference. The rejection is without basis and should be withdrawn.

Embodiment of Claim 18

Claim 18 which was presented in the prior response (together with corresponding dependent claims) defines an embodiment wherein the mold-removing ingredient is present in the hydrophilic adhesive in the form of particles which are coated with the water-soluble isolating layer. Upon contact with water, the mold-removing ingredient in the particles migrates from the adhesive to the mold-containing surface of the object to the cleaned. Such an embodiment is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited prior art.

In view of the above, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of same is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact James W. Hellwege (Registration No. 28,808) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED UP COPY OF CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Four Times Amended) An adhesive mold removing cleaning assembly comprising:

a liquid-permeable supporting sheet having a basis weight of 5 to 200 g/m²;

an active ingredient member comprising a mold removing ingredient, said active ingredient member having a thickness of not more than 5 mm;

a liquid-permeable adhesive member having a thickness of not more than 5 mm comprising a hydrophilic adhesive and a polyol plasticizer; and

an isolating layer having a basis weight of 2 to 100 g/m² which separates said active ingredient member from said adhesive member but which permits migration of said mold removing ingredient to at least a portion of said adhesive upon use;

wherein said hydrophilic adhesive is at least 30% by weight of said liquid-permeable adhesive member, said hydrophilic adhesive has a water content of 0.1% to 60% by weight,

wherein said adhesive member substantially covers one side of said isolating layer, and

said cleaning assembly upon use being adhered to an object to be cleaned by applying the adhesive member to [the] a mold-containing surface of the object whereby at least a portion of said adhesive contacts said mold and thereafter applying water thereto whereby said mold-removing ingredient passes through said adhesive to contact said mold.

11. (Twice Amended) An adhesive mold removing cleaning assembly comprising:

- a) a liquid-permeable supporting sheet having a basis weight of 5 to 200 g/m²;
- b) an active ingredient-containing sheet comprising a mold removing ingredient;
- c) an adhesive layer having a thickness of not more than 5 mm comprising a hydrophilic adhesive and a polyol plasticizer; and
- d) an isolating layer which separates said active ingredient member from said adhesive member but which permits migration of said mold removing ingredient to at least a portion of said adhesive member upon use;

wherein said hydrophilic adhesive comprises at least 30% by weight of said liquid-permeable adhesive member c),

wherein said active ingredient-containing sheet b) is laminated to said isolating layer d), whereby the surface of said

active ingredient-containing sheet b) is covered with said isolating layer d), with said adhesive member covering at least a portion of said isolating layer opposite of said active ingredient-containing sheet, and

at least a portion of said adhesive member of said adhesive mold removing cleaning assembly upon use being adhered to the surface of an object to be cleaned by [applying] contacting at least a portion of said liquid-permeable adhesive layer c) thereof with [to] a mold-containing surface of the object and thereafter applying water thereto whereby said mold-removing ingredient passes through said adhesive to contact said mold.

18. (Amended) An adhesive mold removing cleaning assembly comprising:

a liquid-permeable supporting sheet having a basis weight of 5 to 200 g/m²;

an adhesive layer having a thickness of not more than 5 mm comprising a hydrophilic adhesive and a polyol plasticizer;

said hydrophilic adhesive having admixed therewith a multitude of particles of a mold removing ingredient;

wherein said hydrophilic adhesive is at least 30% by weight of said adhesive layer and has a water content of 0.1% to 60% by weight;

the surface of each of said mold removing particles being coated with a water-soluble isolating layer to prevent contact between said mold removing particles and said hydrophilic adhesive; and

 said cleaning assembly upon use being adhered to the surface of an object to be cleaned by applying the adhesive layer thereof to [the] a mold-containing surface of the object whereby at least a portion of said adhesive contacts said mold and applying water thereto whereby said mold removing ingredient passes through said adhesive to contact said mold.